

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Special Committee to  
Appoint an  
Auditor General**

**Report**



**March 2000**





Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia

March 15, 2000

To the Honourable,  
The Legislative Assembly  
Province of British Columbia,  
Victoria, British Columbia

Honourable Members:

We have the Honour to present herewith the Report of the Special Committee to Appoint an Auditor General for the Province of British Columbia. This Report covers the work of the Committee for the Third Session of the Thirty-Sixth Parliament.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee.

Rick Thorpe, MLA  
Chair

Evelyn Gillespie, MLA  
Deputy Chair



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# Composition of the Committee

## Members

Rick Thorpe, MLA	Chair	<i>Okanagan-Penticton</i>
Evelyn Gillespie, MLA	Deputy Chair	<i>Comox Valley</i>
Pietro Calendino, MLA		<i>Burnaby North</i>
Hon. Joy MacPhail, MLA		<i>Vancouver-Hastings</i>
Glenn Robertson, MLA		<i>North Island</i>
Erda Walsh, MLA		<i>Kootenay</i>
Rick Kasper, MLA		<i>Malahat-Juan de Fuca</i>
Steve Orcherton, MLA		<i>Victoria-Hillside</i>
Gary Farrell-Collins, MLA		<i>Vancouver-Little Mountain</i>
Murray Coell, MLA		<i>Saanich North and the Islands</i>
John Weisbeck, MLA		<i>Okanagan East</i>
Jack Weisgerber, MLA		<i>Peace River South</i>

## Clerk to the Committee

Craig James  
Clerk of Committees and Clerk Assistant

## Researcher to the Committee

Kelly Dunsdon  
Committee Researcher





# Introduction

Pursuant to subsections 2(2) and (3) of the *Auditor General Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 23, a special committee of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia is to unanimously recommend to the House a person to be the Auditor General of the province of British Columbia for a term of six years.

In 1977, the Office of the Auditor General was established under the provisions contained in the *Auditor General Act*. This report constitutes the fifth recommendation to the Legislative Assembly to appoint an Auditor General.

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# Terms of Reference

In the Legislative Assembly on July 15, 1999, the Honourable Joy MacPhail, Minister of Finance, moved:

*That a special committee be appointed to select and unanimously recommend to the Legislative Assembly, the appointment of an Auditor General, pursuant to the Auditor General Act R.S.B.C. 1996, c.23 s.2, and that the Special Committee so appointed shall have the powers of a Select Standing Committee, and is also empowered:*

- (a) to appoint of their number, one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Committee;*
- (b) to sit during any period in which the House is adjourned, during the recess after prorogation until the next following Session and during any sitting of the House;*
- (c) to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and*
- (d) to retain such personnel as required to assist the Committee;*

*and shall report to the House as soon as possible, or following any adjournment of the House, or at the next following Session, as the case may be; to deposit the original of its reports with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly during a period of adjournment and upon the resumption of the sittings of the House, the Chair shall present all reports to the Legislative Assembly.*

*That the Special Committee be comprised of members of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts established this session.*

The motion was agreed to, unanimously.



# Methodology

A comprehensive search for an Auditor General for the Province of British Columbia should meet the requirements of openness and fairness. Openness means that all qualified British Columbians and Canadians, generally, would be able to compete for this position, without prejudice; and fairness means that people from all walks of life would have the opportunity of putting their names forward for this extremely important position.

The Committee placed an advertisement in the major daily newspapers throughout British Columbia as well as two national newspapers, once, inviting applications from people familiar with the public sector who possess strong experience with senior-level accounting and management. The advertisement appears in Appendix Two of this Report. A total of thirty applicants responded, sixteen from within British Columbia, ten from Ontario, and four from other provinces in Canada. Six women and twenty-four men applied.

Throughout the screening process, the candidates' identity was purposely withheld to enhance the credibility of the selection process by way of eliminating favouritism. Only the professional and personal qualifications and supplementary information were examined as the basis for creating a shortlist. An initial shortlist of twelve candidates was unanimously approved by the subcommittee. Shortlisted candidates were asked to provide additional written information to the committee, including details of *curriculum vitae* and responses to three questions regarding the role of the Auditor General and future challenges facing the office. One of the initial twelve shortlisted candidates withdrew from the competition.

Based upon the responses received, the shortlist was subsequently reduced to six potential interviewees. Six candidates were interviewed in February, 2000. In the interview, each candidate was asked a standard set of questions to ensure consistency over the range of issues explored by Committee members. The Committee was impressed with the high calibre of professionalism of the six candidates who were interviewed. The Committee unanimously agreed to re-interview two finalists, and those interviews were held on March 7th. The committee then reached a unanimous decision.



# Procedure

At its organization meeting on October 29, 1999 the Committee elected Mr. Rick Thorpe, MLA, (Okanagan-Penticton) as its Chairperson and Ms. Evelyn Gillespie, MLA (Comox Valley) as its Deputy Chairperson. A subcommittee consisting of Mr. Rick Thorpe, MLA, Ms. Evelyn Gillespie, MLA, Mr. Pietro Calendino, MLA, Mr. Rick Kasper, MLA, Mr. Gary Farrell-Collins, MLA and Mr. Jack Weisgerber, MLA was formed and delegated a variety of administrative and procedural tasks including applicant screening, advertisement and news release preparation, position and candidate profiles, interview format and the compilation of other documentation related to the work of the Committee.

The Committee conducted six (6) meetings in Victoria on the following dates:

October 19, 1999	Committee	Organization
December 16, 2000	Sub-Committee	Application Screening
February 1, 2000	Committee	Interviews
February 2, 2000	Committee	Interviews
February 15, 2000	Committee	Briefings
March 7, 2000	Committee	Re-interviews, report





# Recommendation

After concluding the interviews the Committee diligently considered the qualifications of each candidate, and assessed the prospective impact of appointment upon the Office of the Auditor General, the requirements of the Legislative Assembly and the public.

## Recommendation

Your Committee unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the name of Mr. Wayne K. Strelieff, C.A., be recommended to the Lieutenant Governor for the position of Auditor General for the Province of British Columbia to exercise the powers and perform the duties provided by the *Auditor General Act*.

A biography of Mr. Strelieff appears in Appendix One.



# Appendices

## **I. Biography – Wayne K. Strelieff, C.A.**

Mr. Wayne K. Strelieff obtained his Chartered Accountant's designation with the Saskatoon office of Peat, Marwick & Mitchell (now KPMG) in 1978. He also holds baccalaureate degrees in Arts (History) and Commerce, and a Masters degree in Science (Accounting), from the University of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Strelieff brings 20 years of experience in public sector accounting and auditing to the position of Auditor General of British Columbia. He was appointed Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan in 1990, and prior to that time worked for seven years with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants in Toronto as Assistant Director of Public Sector Accounting and Auditing. Mr. Strelieff has also held public sector accounting and auditing positions in British Columbia. From 1979 to 1981, he worked in Victoria with the Office of the Auditor General as Audit Manager, Professional Practice and Development and from 1981 to 1983 as an analyst with Treasury Board.

Mr. Strelieff is actively involved in a variety of professional organizations. He is a member of the Institutes of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Ontario, the Institute of Public Administration of Canada, and the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. He has also been a member of the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors since 1990, chairing that organization's inaugural planning and coordinating committee.

Mr. Strelieff was a governor of the Saskatchewan Business Education Foundation from 1996 to 1999, and is a recipient of the Commemorative Medal for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, which recognizes significant contributions to compatriots, community and Canada.



# Appendices

## II. Advertisement

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA			
<h2 style="text-align: center;">AUDITOR GENERAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA</h2>			
<h3 style="text-align: center;">The Special Committee to Appoint an Auditor General invites applications for the position of Auditor General for the Province of British Columbia.</h3>			
<p><b>A</b>n all-party committee of the Legislative Assembly has been appointed to select and unanimously recommend to the House an Auditor General for the Province of British Columbia.</p> <p>The Auditor General is an Officer of the Legislative Assembly and is appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. The Auditor General is required, under the provisions of the <i>Auditor General Act</i>, to examine the accounts and records of the government and to issue reports to the Legislative Assembly on the management of public funds. The Auditor General is also eligible to be appointed auditor of any Crown corporation, Crown agency, or public body.</p> <p>The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia deliberates on the Auditor General's work through the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and the Auditor General appears before that committee to provide information and support in the course of its deliberations.</p>	<p>The membership of the Special Committee to Appoint an Auditor General is identical to that of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts.</p> <p>This appointment is for six years, with provision for reappointment. The current term of office expires in April 2000. The salary for this position is equal to the salary paid to a Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia.</p> <p>Individuals with the following experience, skills and knowledge are invited to apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• senior level experience in auditing, particularly in the public sector</li> <li>• experience in the management of a large, professional staff</li> <li>• well-developed communication and decision-making skills, and</li> <li>• effective leadership qualities with an established pattern of achievement.</li> </ul> <p>Applications should be received by the Clerk of Committees at the address below no later than Friday, November 26, 1999. All applications received will be held in confidence.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ADDRESS ALL APPLICATIONS AND INQUIRIES TO</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Craig James Clerk of Committees and Clerk Assistant Room 224, Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8V 1X4</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Tel: (250) 356-2933 (collect) Toll free in BC 1-877-428-8337 Fax: (250) 356-8172 e-mail: ClerkComm@leg.bc.ca www.legis.gov.bc.ca/cmt</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Craig James Clerk of Committees and Clerk Assistant Room 224, Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8V 1X4</p>	<p>Tel: (250) 356-2933 (collect) Toll free in BC 1-877-428-8337 Fax: (250) 356-8172 e-mail: ClerkComm@leg.bc.ca www.legis.gov.bc.ca/cmt</p>
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<h3 style="text-align: center;">Special Committee to Appoint an Auditor General</h3>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p>			
<p>Rick Thorpe, MLA Chair Okanagan-Penikese</p>			
<p>Evelyn Gillespie, MLA Deputy Chair Comox Valley</p>			
<p>Erle Walsh, MLA Kootenay</p>			
<p>Pietro Calandino, MLA Burnaby North</p>			
<p>Hon. Jim Doyle, MLA Columbia River-Revelstoke</p>			
<p>Steve Orsherton, MLA Victoria-Hillside</p>			
<p>Hon. Helmut Giesbrecht, MLA Skeena</p>			
<p>Rick Kasper, MLA Malahat-Juan de Fuca</p>			
<p>Gary Farrell-Collins, MLA Vancouver-Little Mountain</p>			
<p>Murray Coell, MLA Seasich North and the Islands</p>			
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